



Title: Roundtable Discussion on ‘Unlocking Resilience Finance to Strengthen Climate Actions in the Global South’

Date: 25th February 2026 (Wednesday)

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Venue: Sheesh Mahal, Taj Palace

Background

Climate impacts are accelerating across the Global South, disproportionately affecting informal workers, smallholder farmers, women, indigenous communities, and urban poor populations. Rising heat stress, water scarcity, flooding, livelihood disruption, and climate-induced mobility are already eroding hard-won development gains and increasing fiscal and social vulnerabilities. Despite growing recognition of these risks, resilience finance remains critically inadequate, both in scale and in its structuring.

According to the latest UNEP Resilience Gap Report, developing countries will need between US\$310 billion and US\$365 billion per year by 2035 to implement essential resilience measures, yet international public resilience finance reached only about US\$26 billion in 2023, roughly 12–14 times less than what is needed. This persistent gap highlights how far current financing falls short of responding to growing climate impacts across vulnerable regions.

This gap is especially critical for low and middle-income countries (LMICs), with much of the infrastructure required in LMICs by 2050 still to be built. Recent analysis by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) based on the cutting-edge Global Infrastructure Risk Model and Resilience Index (GIRI) indicates that climate and geological disasters cost US\$ 732–845 billion on average across the globe annually. CDRI analysis also finds that the indirect impact on economies can be as much as seven times larger than the direct impact on infrastructure. For LMICs, the outlook appears even more ominous. While accounting for only 32.7 percent of global infrastructure value, LMICs bear a significant share of global annual average losses, estimated at \$397 billion. Estimates from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and UNEP suggest that by 2030, about \$6.9 trillion per year will be needed just to make infrastructure more resilient. In fact, financing for resilience often focuses on reactive spending rather than proactive measures, which further only widens the financial gap. CDRI’s Second Global Infrastructure Resilience Report (GIR 2025) reflects upon this, indicating that proactive investments in infrastructure resilience, such as better maintenance, retrofits, building stronger new infrastructure, and faster reconstruction, can provide higher economic returns and reduce disaster recovery times. Expanding insurance coverage also helps shorten recovery periods. However, many countries still face protection gaps because they lack dedicated strategies for risk financing. While governments, philanthropies, and development partners are increasingly piloting innovative resilience solutions such as heat action plans, climate-resilient livelihoods, early warning systems, nature-based solutions, and social protection mechanisms, many of these efforts remain stuck and have not been upscaled based on the

level required. Persistent gaps in hyperlocal climate risk data, institutional capacity, robust financing instruments, and coordination across public, private, and philanthropic actors limit the ability to scale and embed these interventions into sustained programs. Embedding resilience into governance can help overcome these barriers. Strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring transparency and accountability, and encouraging adaptable decision-making is critical to unlocking resilience finance that is inclusive, locally responsive, and capable of delivering long-term resilience at scale.

Objectives of the thematic track

This roundtable aims to advance practical pathways for scaling equitable, inclusive, and locally responsive resilience finance in the Global South. Building on the growing urgency to close the resilience finance gap, the discussion will:

- Take stock of what is already working across public finance, philanthropy, multilateral development finance, and blended finance mechanisms in supporting climate resilience outcomes;
- Identify actionable strategies to overcome financing barriers, such as financial tools, including contingency funds, sustainable bonds, and insurance, to make resilience efforts more efficient and effective.
- Address institutional and governance challenges that can unlock resilience financing and help national and sub-national governments and stakeholders effectively use available financial instruments.

Through this exchange, the roundtable seeks to generate concrete insights on how resilience finance can be mobilised and structured to deliver long-term, system-level climate resilience for the most vulnerable communities in the Global South.

Key Questions

- Which climate and disaster risk financing approaches or models are already demonstrating impact in delivering equitable and locally responsive resilience outcomes, and what concrete lessons can be drawn for replication and scale?
- How can successful resilience pilots be transitioned into systemic, financially sustainable, and institutionally anchored sectoral programmes?
- What kind of governance and capacity improvements are needed for effectively leveraging financial instruments to close protection gaps and ensure that resilience investments reach the most vulnerable communities? Which innovative approaches or case studies have shown promise in achieving this?
- What role can global climate and disaster finance agencies, donors and philanthropies play in helping national and sub-national governments and stakeholders make the most effective use of available financial instruments? What kind of resilience initiatives would be of interest to philanthropies?

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 25th edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 25-27 February 2026 in New Delhi. The deliberations of the **Silver Jubilee** edition of the Summit will focus on the umbrella theme of *Parivartan: Transformations: Vision, Voices and Values for Sustainable Development*.

About the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

CDRI is a global coalition committed to strengthening infrastructure resilience against climate and disaster risks. With 53 member countries and 12 partner organizations, it includes national governments, international bodies, and businesses collaborating to exchange knowledge, drive research, and invest in disaster resilient infrastructure. Members gain access to global expertise, funding, technical support, research opportunities, innovative solutions, and international best practices. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, CDRI's Secretariat holds the status of an International Organization. CDRI's mission is, by 2050, to drive US\$10 trillion of new and existing infrastructure investments and services to be resilient to natural hazards and climate change through enhanced capacity, informed policy, planning, and management, thereby improving environmental quality, livelihoods, and overall well-being for more than 3 billion people worldwide.